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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In Cooperation with State and Federal Agencies

COTTON INSECT CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 16, 1945
(Eighth Cotton Insect Survey Report for 1945)

Weather during the week was mostly favorable for boll weevils. Heavy rains occurred over most of Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and northern Alabama and caused local damage to cotton in Oklahoma. Continuing drought in northwest Texas plains area is delaying planting and germination.

Boll weevils are more numerous in most areas than they have been in the middle of June during any year since 1941 and weather conditions during the next few weeks will determine whether serious infestations develop.

Cotton is rapidly maturing in extreme southern Texas with a few bales ginned in several Lower Valley counties.

No authentic reports have been received of the appearance of the cotton leafworm this season.

The tarnished plant bug and rapid plant bug are more abundant than last year in the Delta sections of Louisiana and Mississippi.

BOLL WEEVIL

TEXAS: Emergence of weevils from hibernation cages at Waco is now 5%. Emergence for the corresponding week in previous years was 0.8% in 1944; 0.05% in 1943; 0.2% in 1942; and 14% in 1941.

Square infestation records by entomologists and 4-H Club members in 282 fields in 33 counties averaged 33%, or an increase of 12% during the week. Only 3% of the fields examined were not infested; less than 10% of the squares were punctured in 22% of the fields; from 11 to 25% were infested in 25% of the fields; from 26 to 50% were infested in 24% of the fields; and more than 50% infestation was found in 26% of the fields. The infestation in 6 southernmost counties averaged 47%, and in 20 coastal and south central counties 22%. Insecticides were being used in 34 of the fields examined.

Plant examinations in 157 fields too small for squares in 16 central and northern Texas counties averaged 135 weevils per acre.

OKLAHOMA: Hard washing rains of 2½ to 14 inches during the week caused flooding of many streams and considerable damage to cotton. Small cotton was covered with mud and in some cases larger plants were washed out of the ground.

Plant examinations in 261 fields in 16 counties showed from 0 weevils in the extreme northern cotton counties to 390 weevils per acre in one field in Marshall County. The average was 45 weevils per acre. No records were made in the extreme southeastern counties.

(Over)

LOUISIANA: Cotton and other crops were badly blown over by rainstorms during the week. Fields are too wet to cultivate and are becoming grassy. Over 12% of the weevils have emerged from the hibernation cages to date and were present in the fields around Tallulah at the average rate of 219 per acre this week. The emergence records and field counts show weevils are more abundant than in any year since 1941 when severe damage was caused. It is expected squares will be sufficiently numerous to begin infestation records next week.

MISSISSIPPI: General rains and moderate temperatures occurred over most of the state. Plant examinations by State Plant Board inspectors and Federal entomologists in 170 fields in 32 central and northern counties averaged 182 weevils per acre on the 51 farms where weevils were found. Cotton is still too small for square examinations in the Delta, while at this time last year over two-thirds of the fields had squares large enough for weevils to puncture. Weevils were found on the plants in 19 of the 102 fields examined in 10 Delta counties at the average rate of 125 per acre on the infested farms. No weevils were found in 36 fields in Humphreys, Leflore and Washington Counties.

Square examinations in 5 fields in Wayne County, southeastern Mississippi, ranged from 11 to 40% and averaged 24% punctured squares.

ALABAMA: W. A. Ruffin, Extension Entomologist, reported on June 11: "The boll weevil situation in early June was such as to cause the heaviest infestation that I have observed for the past several years. This condition is the same all over the southern half of the state. Some farmers have applied one to two applications of calcium arsenate. In fields that have been dusted, I invariably found a heavy infestation of cotton aphids. There has been practically no rainfall in this part of the state for the past three weeks. Therefore, I am advising farmers to delay poisoning their cotton until late June.

"We have a number of farmers who would like to have calcium arsenate-nicotine mixtures. Nicotine seems to be non-existent in this area. We seem to have an adequate supply of calcium arsenate and we have many more dusters than we have ever had in the state."

GEORGIA: Squares are becoming numerous enough for infestation records in the southern part of the state. Examinations made by 4-H Club members and Federal entomologists in 38 fields in 11 southern counties ranged from 0 to over 50% with an average of 14% punctured squares. These reports indicate somewhat higher weevil populations than normal on cotton at this stage of development.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Weather was hot and dry this week and crops need rain. Cotton is making good progress and blooming in many fields in the southern part of the state. Emergence from hibernation continues heavy and 99 weevils were caught in the 1/5-acre trap plot, bringing the total to 476 to date.

Square examinations made by Federal entomologists in 121 fields in 18 counties averaged 17.8% punctured squares as compared to 15.5% last week. All of these fields had punctured squares; the infestation was below 10% in 16% of the fields; between 10 and 25% in 69% of the fields; and over 25% in 15% of the fields.

Plant examinations in 56 fields where squares were too small for weevils to puncture averaged 125 to 175 weevils per acre or about the same as last week. Weevil infestation can become critical if weather conditions are favorable during the next month.

NORTH CAROLINA: Boll weevils were found in only 35 of the 89 cotton fields examined in nine eastern counties. Cotton has not begun squaring but weevils were found in largest numbers on the young plants in Sampson, Wayne and Robeson Counties.

Cotton is growing nicely but rain is needed in some counties.

COTTON FLEA HOPPER

TEXAS: Entomologists and 4-H Club members found an average of 7.1 flea hoppers per 100 terminal buds in 354 fields examined in 42 counties, which was only a slight increase from last week. No flea hoppers were found in 23% of the fields; less than 10 per 100 terminal buds in 56% of the fields; and more than 10 flea hoppers per 100 terminals in 21% of the fields. Insecticides were being used in 12 of the fields where records were made.

OKLAHOMA: Inspections in 261 fields showed an average of 1 flea hopper per 100 terminal buds. More than 10 hoppers per 100 terminals were found in only 3 fields.

MISSISSIPPI: Flea hopper nymphs were found in the terminal buds of cotton in Issaquena County in the Delta.

OTHER PLANT BUGS

In the Salt River and Santa Cruz Valleys of Arizona cotton made good progress. Early-planted cotton is squaring and the stub cotton has small bolls. Lygus and other plant bugs continue numerous on alfalfa and other plants, with little change in populations during the week. They were present on stub cotton in the Salt River Valley at the rate of 10 per 100 net sweeps and on plant cotton in the Santa Cruz Valley at 2 per 100 sweeps.

Rapid plant bugs were found in small numbers in many cotton fields near Waco, Tex.

Tarnished and rapid plant bugs were noted in all fields examined in the vicinity of Tallulah, La., and in many of the fields in the Delta section of Mississippi.

MISCELLANEOUS INSECTS

Grasshoppers continue serious with some damage to cotton in many central, northern and western counties of Texas. Growers in the Waco area are experiencing some difficulty in obtaining poison for control. One grower reports having baited three times and expects to have to bait again before cotton and other crops are out of danger. Grasshoppers are reported as occurring generally in Oklahoma.

Aphid infestations in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas have caused considerable shedding of the lower leaves in some fields but have now been greatly reduced by natural enemies. Some control is being used but nicotine is difficult to obtain.

Thrip infestations is spotted but heavy in some fields in the Lower Valley of Texas. Populations and damage are decreasing in other areas.

Bollworms were present in 16 fields in 7 Texas counties but no infestations requiring control have been reported.

False chinch bugs migrating from weeds to cotton caused some local damage around Waco, Texas.

-Prepared June 20, 1945-